

# **Nantucket Agricultural Commission**

## **Minutes from April 14, 2016**

### **In Attendance:**

John Kuszpa  
Michelle Whelan  
Richard Arnold  
Tracey Pattenden  
Campbell Sutton

### **CALLED TO ORDER - 6:32 PM**

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA - Tracey motions, Michelle seconds
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 11, 2015 – tabled to next meeting
3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Tracey recuses herself and states that she has issues with the Nuisance by-law and is uncomfortable with Ag Commissioners having discussed Ag Com desire for language protecting agriculture to be inserted into the by-law with Suzy outside of a Commission meeting. Tracey had additional concerns about the language.
4. OFFICIAL BUSINESS
  - a. Status of Suzie Gale's by-law: approved at town meeting
  - b. Status of Right to Farm by-law: “ “
  - c. Campbell asks if the Ag Commission can be consulted (by the Town) on potential Town owned properties as ag land. There is pending legislation to do with this, John suggests this be put on next month's agenda.
  - d. Discuss town greenhouse zoning. Campbell has done this research and determined greenhouses are allowed in any zone on the island.
  - e. Discuss filling seat 7 - add seat 6 to that as Patty has resigned. Campbell will ask to make sure Ag Commission vacancies are listed in the paper. Aquaculture representative is suggested - comment from public (Abby Slosek) suggested a beekeeper. Michelle will ask Jim Gross. Tom Larrabee Jr. was Richard's suggestion which he will discuss with Tom.
  - f. Ad for Island Fair in Nantucket Grown - Town became Fiscal agent for the fair when park and rec broke up. Suggested ad representing Ag Commission “Did You Know? Nantucket is a Right-to-Farm Community with a 7-member Agricultural Commission.” With reference to commission website [www.nantucket-ma.gov/ag-commission...](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov/ag-commission...) (Richard motioned, John seconded).
  - g. Review existing farm surveys from Ag Commission and Sustainable Nantucket. Campbell read through 2011 survey results and will submit a copy at next meeting.
  - h. Michelle leaves meeting at 7:30
  - i. Discuss working cooperatively with Island Fair and Sustainable Nantucket. If the fair is open to the idea we could invite them to a meeting. Put on agenda - discuss ways Ag Com and Sustainable can support the Island Fair.
  - j. Add to an up-coming agenda - master list of community ag people.
  - k. Add to an up-coming agenda – creating Ag Commission Facebook page.
  - l. New business for discussion - Campbell to bring in booklet on backyard chickens. Funding - Commission needs to ask BoS what monies might be available to cover incidental expenses i.e. advertising/public service announcements. Put on up-coming agenda.
  - m. Notes - to put into the next agenda: Special Commission, Tracey's language, summer schedule...
5. SET TIME/DATE/PLACE FOR NEXT MEETING - 5/12 6:30pm, PSF training room

**Adjournement:** Campbell motions, Richard seconds, with all in favor. Meeting ended 7:47 PM